

Message Text

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SUBJ: GUADELOUPEAN SOCIALIST PARTY SPLITS

1. FOLLOWING THE MARCH DEFEAT OF SOCIALIST LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE DR. JALTON THE FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY IN GUADELOUPE FELL INTO DISARRAY. DURING SEVERAL WEEKS WHICH FOLLOWED THERE WAS A SERIES OF BEHIND-CLOSED-DOORS REASSESSMENTS OF ITS FUTURE PROSPECTS. WHAT EVOLVED, ACCORDING TO SOURCES THERE, IS THAT ITS RIGHT-WING FACTION, REFUSING TO SUPPORT A POLICY OF INDEPENDENCE OR AUTONOMY FOR GUADELOUPE FROM FRANCE, CHOSE TO BREAK AWAY AND FORM A NEW PARTY "MOUVEMENT SOCIALISTE DEPARTMENTALISTE GUADELOUPEEN" (MSDG). THE NEW PARTY HAS ATTRACTED TO ITS FOLD SEVERAL MAYORS OF SMALL TOWNS AND A FEW NOT-TOO-IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALIST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. POLICYWISE MSDG'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECLARED ITSELF A LEFTIST PARTY WITH AVOWED INTENTIONS OF DEVELOPING A POLICY FOR HAVING GUADELOUPE REMAIN A DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE.

2. HOWEVER, THE MORE IMPORTANT OF THE NEW PARTY'S LEADERS, LUCIEN BERNIER, A MEMBER OF THE CENTRE GAUCHE PARTY OF GUADELOUPE AND MAYOR OF SAINTE ANNE (A SMALL
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VILLAGE WHERE ONE OF THE CLUB MEDITERRANEE OF GUADELOUPE IS LOCATED), FAILED IN A RECENT PRESS STATEMENT TO DECLARE FORTHRIGHTLY FOR CONTINUED DEPARTMENTALIZATION. INSTEAD WHEN ASKED BY REPORTERS HE SAID MSDG WOULD NOT FOLLOW THE "UNPROFITABLE" INDEPENDENT LINE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND WOULD INSTEAD DEVELOP POLICIES AND STRATEGIES FOR CONTINUING GUADELOUPEANS WITHIN THE FRENCH

COMMUNITY.

COMMENT: WHILE LOCAL PRO-DEPARTMENTALISTS WARMLY EMBRACED MSDG AND DECLARED IT AS BEING A BEACON OF THE FUTURE, THE SPLIT REVEALS THAT THE CONTINUING DISHARMONY BETWEEN METROPOLITAN-CONTROLLED PARTY INSTRUMENTALITIES AND LOCAL DESIRE FOR POLITICAL AUTONOMY IS EVER PRESENT. AND ALTHOUGH NONE OF THOSE NOW ASSOCIATED WITH THE MSDG STRIKES ONE AS BEING, OR GIVES A SEMBLANCE OF BECOMING, A MAJOR LEADER AND/OR POLITICAL SAGE EQUAL TO THE COMMUNIST MAYOR OF POINTE A PITRE, HENRI BONGOU. THE BREAK IS CLEARLY A MOVE FROM CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH A METROPOLITAN FRENCH LED AND CONTROLLED PARTY. IN THE VIEW OF THIS REPORTING OFFICER NO MATTER WHAT MSDG'S PUBLICLY DECLARED REASONS ARE TODAY THE BREAK WITH THE PARTY SYMBOLIZES A THIRST FOR FRESHER AIR AND INDEPENDENT ACTION--SPELL IT AUTONOMY.

3. THE PREVIOUS BREAK AWAY, IN FRENCH ANTILLES, FROM A METROPOLITAN PARTY WAS IN 1956 WHEN AIME CESAIRE BROKE WITH THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY OVER THE ISSUE OF THE 1956 HUNGARIAN REVOLT. CESAIRE, WITH LITTLE MORE THAN A DIM HOPE, WENT ON TO ESTABLISH HIS PROGRESSIST PARTI MARTINIQUE WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY HAS BECOME THE MAJOR POLITICAL FORCE IN MARTINIQUE ADVOCATING AUTONOMY. ONLY THE FUTURE CAN REVEAL IF MSDG HAS SIMILAR POTENTIALS.

ROBINSON

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